

## Case 3578

***Copromyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 (currently *Pteremis fenestralis*; Insecta, Diptera, SPHAEROCERIDAE): proposed conservation of usage by designation of a neotype**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 75.6 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of the widespread West Palaearctic saprophagous fly *Pteremis fenestralis* (Fallén, 1820) (SPHAEROCERIDAE) in its current usage. A revision of all extant syntypes revealed that they belong to five or six species of four different genera of SPHAEROCERIDAE, none of which is identical with *Pteremis fenestralis* as currently understood. It is proposed that this series of syntypes should be set aside and a male specimen from Sweden, which corresponds to the current usage of the name, be designated as neotype.

**Keywords:** Taxonomy; nomenclature; Diptera; SPHAEROCERIDAE; *Copromyza*; *Copromyza fenestralis*; neotype designation.

1. Fallén (1820, p. 8) established the name *Copromyza fenestralis* based on a number of specimens of both sexes from Esperöd, Sweden. Eight specimens considered syntypes (see Kim, 1972), two males, 5 females and one with sex unknown, were found in the Fallén collection housed in the Swedish Museum of Natural History (Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet), Stockholm, and one questionable male syntype in the Stenhammar collection in the Museum of Evolution – Zoology, Uppsala University, Uppsala. The series in the Fallén collection (Stockholm) is labelled with two hand-written (by Fallén) labels ‘C. fenestralis ♀’ preceding 7 specimens and ‘C. fenestralis ♂’ in front of 1 specimen. The specimen in the Stenhammar collection (Uppsala) is labelled with hand-written labels ‘Oel’, ‘Hgn’, ‘99’ (circular label) and ‘fenestralis’ + two illegible words (surely not by Fallén). This specimen was listed by Kim (1972) as a probable syntype (but see below). There are no additional syntypes in the collections of Fallén (Stockholm), Zetterstedt (Lund) and/or Stenhammar (Uppsala) (see Kim, 1972).

2. A revision of the above syntypes (and the doubtful syntype in Uppsala) showed that they belong to 5 (or 6) species: *Gonioneura spinipennis* (Haliday, 1836) 2 males, *Pullimosina heteroneura* (Haliday, 1836) 1 female, *Spelobia clunipes* (Meigen, 1830) 1 female, *Spelobia luteilabris* (Rondani, 1880) 3 females, *Spelobia* sp. 1 specimen of unknown sex (abdomen and head lost) and *Chaetopodella scutellaris* (Haliday, 1836) 1 male (the doubtful syntype in Uppsala).

3. Fallén’s (1820, p. 8) original description of *Copromyza fenestralis* is too concise, superficial (corresponding with the subfamily LIMOSININAE as currently defined), and is insufficient for recognition at even genus-group level.

4. Stenhammar (1855, pp. 404–406) redescribed the species (as *Limosina fenestralis*) on the basis of a syntype specimen received from J.W. Zetterstedt. However, it is very doubtful whether the male specimen in the Stenhammar collection really is this syntype because it was collected by A.E. Holmgren and certainly did not originate from Esperöd (the type locality); consequently, Stenhammar's (1855) redescription may have been based on a different specimen. Duda (1918, pp. 88–90) followed Stenhammar's concept of the species and redescribed it in more detail as *Limosina (Stenhammaria) fenestralis*. The current usage of the specific name is based on Duda's redescription, and it was accepted by all subsequent authors (e.g. Spuler, 1924; Duda, 1925, 1938; Richards, 1930; Collin, 1956; Hackman, 1964, 1969; Papp, 1973a, b, 1984; Marshall, 1984; Narchuk, 1988; Pitkin, 1988; Florén, 1989; Roháček, 1998; Roháček et al. 2001; Marshall, et al., 2011).

5. None of the revised syntypes belong to *Pteremis fenestralis* as currently understood. Moreover, 5 (or even 6) species were recognized among these syntypes, all bearing younger specific names than *Copromyza fenestralis*, and belonging to four different genera of SPHAEROCERIDAE. Except for *Chaetopodella scutellaris* (based on a doubtful syntype in Uppsala), none of the remaining species externally resembles *Pteremis fenestralis* in the current concept. Consequently, the selection of a lectotype from any of these syntypes would necessitate a series of nomenclatural changes at specific and even generic (see below) level.

6. *Copromyza fenestralis* Fallén is the type species of two genera, viz. *Coprobia* Lioy, 1864 and *Stenhammaria* Duda, 1918, both currently treated as synonyms of *Pteremis* Rondani, 1856 based on the synonymy of *Limosina nivalis* Haliday, 1833 (type species of *Pteremis*) with *Copromyza fenestralis* Fallén. Designation of a lectotype from any of the above syntypes would thus result not only in a new specific synonym but also in re-instatement of the generic name *Coprobia* Lioy and, because it is an older name than *Gonioneura* Rondani, 1880, *Pullimosina* Roháček, 1983, *Spelobia* Spuler, 1924 or *Chaetopodella* Duda, 1920, in a new generic synonym and numerous new generic combinations (cf. Roháček et al., 2001; Marshall et al., 2011).

7. Generic classification and nomenclature of Palaearctic SPHAEROCERIDAE has already been well settled and generally accepted (Roháček, 1998; Roháček, et al., 2001); hence the selection of a lectotype from the available syntypes of *C. fenestralis* would cause considerable confusion. It is therefore important that the current use of the nominal taxon *fenestralis* Fallén remains unchanged. This can only be achieved by setting aside the existing type series and designating a neotype: a male specimen labelled 'SWEDEN: Huddinge, Gömmaren lake res., 59° 15' 15" N, 17° 55' 40" E, 58 m, J. Roháček leg.', '7.7.2011, peat-bog, sifting *Sphagnum*, moss and grass', 'NEOTYPUS ♂, *Copromyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820, J. Roháček des. 2011' (red label) and '*Pteremis fenestralis* (Fallén), ♂, J. Roháček det. 2011', see Figs 1–3, deposited in the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm) conforming to the current usage of the name.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to set aside all previous type fixations for *Copromyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820, and to designate as neotype a male specimen from Sweden labelled 'SWEDEN: Huddinge, Gömmaren lake res., 59° 15' 15" N, 17° 55' 40" E, 58 m, J. Roháček leg.', '7.7.2011, peat-bog, sifting *Sphagnum*,



**Figs. 1–3.** Neotype of *Copromyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820. **1**, the neotype specimen (scale = 0.5 mm), **2**, pin with neotype and all labels (scale = 10 mm), **3**, labels of the neotype (scale = 10 mm).

moss and grass', 'NEOTYPUS ♂, *Copromyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820, J. Roháček des. 2011' (red label) and '*Pteremis fenestralis* (Fallén), ♂, J. Roháček det. 2011' (deposited in the Fallén collection in the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm);

- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *fenestralis* Fallén, 1820, as published in the binomen *Copromyza fenestralis* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above.

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